Don't Uproot Trees To 'Plant' a House

Whichever of many reasons, some of them valid, cited for the wholesale bulldozing that precedes "planting" of so many new homes projects, the treeless expanse is a jolt to many a new member of suburbia.

It's a jolt, several ways: in loss of beauty and comfort, and in the financial value that both ornamental and shade trees add to the land.

AIR-CONDITIONERS

Beauty of a tree-studded lot needs no elaboration.

Comfortwise, trees are the original air-conditioning units. That's why it feels cooler as soon as you enter a forested area.

Horticulturists estimate that a mature tree will release from 100 to 200 gallons of water daily. Humidification and cooling of the air results.

And, because trees' leaves use carbon dioxide in the food-making process, they help to purify the air. Serious consideration is being given by highway planners to wide belts of tree-planted land along high-traffic roads as one partial solution to the problem of air contamination.

Trees serve as windbreaks and, when present in quantity, help to cut fuel bills. They encourage birds to stay in the vicinity, and birds are the best antibug devices ever developed.

ADD TO VALUE

Trees of both ornamental and shade varieties add to resale value of property appreciably.

Their money value is seldom thought of in everyday living, but when a storm strikes, tree care specialists are flooded with anguished calls from homeowners who seek to place actual dollar values on plantings for purposes of taxes.

If there is a positive formula for determining values of trees, experts would be much obliged if you'd pass it along to them.

Their best advice: Any attempt to arrive at valuation, for shade trees especially, must be flexible. Value will vary according to size, kind and condition of the tree involved.

Most small trees do have a replacement value and, if this can be determined, it should be the considered value of the tree.

A perfect specimen white oak or sugar maple, with a trunk diameter of 20 inches at breast height, might have an actual worth of $1,570.

That valuation is for a perfect specimen, ideally located on good property in a fine residential neighborhood.

NOT UNUSUAL

All those factors are seldom found together, it is true, but trees valued at 50 per cent or over of the above figure are not unusual.

The facts to be gleaned from the above information are not that you're planting a branch of the mint in your yard when you plant a tree.

The important things you'll harvest are: appreciated property values, comfort, and living beauty for a lifetime.

Place trees high on your list of home improvements. They grow tall in both beauty and value as the years go by.

Russians Compare 'Ordinary' U.S. Home to Palace

Artist's sketch shows house which Russian press has dubbed propaganda display and not the typical U.S. worker's home. House, destined for American national exhibition in Moscow in July, is priced at $13,000 by its builders. Furnishings are valued at extra $5,000. Soviet papers are saying house is no more typical of U.S. worker's home than is Taj Mahal of Indian peasant or Buckingham Palace of British miner.—(AP Photofax)

Sahara Site For New City

PARIS (NANA) — President de Gaulle has given a go-ahead for plans to erect a modern city in the middle of the Sahara Desert, where none has existed before.

The city, built for an eventual population of 40,000, is to be a symbol of the Sahara petroleum boom. It will contain at least one hotel, cinemas and branches of Paris shops.

Hearts of Corn-on-the-Cob Become 'Miracle Mulch'

Corn-on-the-cob is a mouth-watering sight to one group of agricultural researchers, but not for teeth-chomping reasons at roasting time.

"Miracle mulch" is their interest in the corn department.

The new mulch is made from heart rings of hybrid corncobs.

Its purpose: to retain moisture to "work" the soil.

In case you haven't heard of "heart rings," which is quite likely, a corncob "heart ring" is the highly absorbent layer of cob between sockets for the corn kernels and the pithy core. It helps keep kernels moist.

Should that explanation throw you, consider a slice of corncob with the kernels on as an auto wheel; the kernels would be the tread, the core the hub, and the section in between the two would be the "tire" of heart ring.

So, there's many a corncob mulch on the market. So this mulch is different. Only the heart ring material is used. It's separated from the rest of the ground cob, then dehydrated and sterilized.

Next, it's treated with an organic substance to help prevent nitrogen deficiency and to aid bacterial action in the soil with which it's mixed.

Because the material is highly absorbent, one cubic foot of the all-organic mulch will hold about four-and-one-half gallons of water for use by growing plants.

Because it's so thirsty, the granules of material swell to nearly 2½ times their size when soaked, and contract as they dry.

This "breathing" action — swelling and contraction — helps to "work" the soil, to keep it loose.

The mulch is suitable for on-the-surface or spaded-under use, and can be applied to lawns, flowers, shrubs, fruit plantings and vegetable plots.

Handyman's Guide — *By Ralph Dalzell*

Easy-to-Use, Inexpensive Plastic Makes Colorful Garden Fences

Today's trend toward outdoor living makes the use of fences a colorful and practical home improvement. Fences provide privacy, act as a windbreak, and tend to tie a lawn or garden into one integral, beautiful and individual unit.

Without fences, any lawn or garden effect can be partially lost because of poorly cared-for surrounding lawns, or because borders are difficult to plan and maintain.

Ordinary wood fences, in a great variety of shapes and designs, have long been used. But, even though painted, they somehow lack the necessary, colorful influence to set off lawns and gardens to the best advantage.

Corrugated reinforced plastic paneling, a new and desirable material is now available for fence construction. The new plastic paneling is easy to use and is well within the average budget.

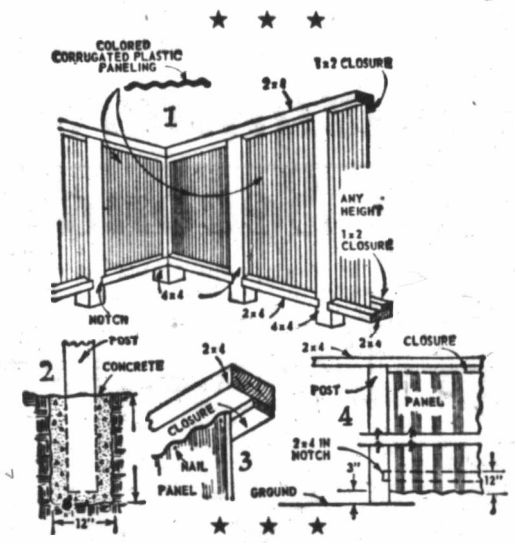
CAN BE PAINTED

The fence shown in picture 1 is constructed using 4x4-inch wood posts, 2x4-inch rails and corrugated plastic panels in many desirable colors. The woodwork can be painted or given a natural finish.

The 4x4-inch posts (or two 2x4s nailed together) are usually spaced eight feet apart, depending upon the lengths of plastic panels available at lumber yards. The heights of the posts above ground depends on taste and upon the size of panels available.

MEASURE, MARK

Assuming that your lawn or garden is level, stretch string or a garden hose to indicate the desired position of the fence. Then measure and mark the positions for all posts.



Set the posts in concrete, as indicated in picture 2. Ready to use concrete can be purchased iin bags. One bag will set one post. When posts are set in concrete they do not rot and fences will be stronger and rigid.

Set posts at both ends of the fence first. Stretch a string for the tops of those two posts. This will help to set all other posts at exactly the same level. Use a carpenter's level to make sure that all posts are plumb.

AVOID RUST STREAKS

When all posts have been set and the concrete around them has become hard, nail the 2x4 top rail to the posts as indicated in pictures 1 and 4. Use galvanized or aluminum nails to avoid rust streaks.

Next, nail the 1x2-inch closure strip to the underside of the top rail as shown in picture 1. Note that closures should be placed away from the lawn or garden.

The bottom 2x4-inch rail and closure can be constructed as shown in picture 1. It can be about three or four inches above the ground. Be sure to set it in notches cut into the posts (picture 4).

CHECK DISTANCE

Make sure that the distance between upper and lower rails is exactly the same throughout the length of the fence. Check this distance with the height of the available panels.

Paint or otherwise finish the woodwork before the plastic panels are installed. Drill holes in the crown of the plastic panels in every third corrugation for fastening the panels to the top and bottom rails.

Nail through these holes so the nails enter the closures (picture 3). The panels should fit snugly to the top and bottom rails. If necessary, the panels can be sawed to correct fit.

The bottom 2x4 rail can be installed as shown in picture 4, and the plastic panels can be nailed to its edge. The panels should be applied to the lawn or garden side of the rail.

The plastic panels will never require paint or other means of preservation. They can be washed to make them clean and bright.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—Is it true that old Victorian furniture is in style again?

A—Yes. Many people are giving it a coat or two of white enamel.

Q—Is it likely that colors from wallpaper will bleed through paint applied over the paper?

A—We can never be sure. So, apply paint to a yard or so of the paper to see what happens.

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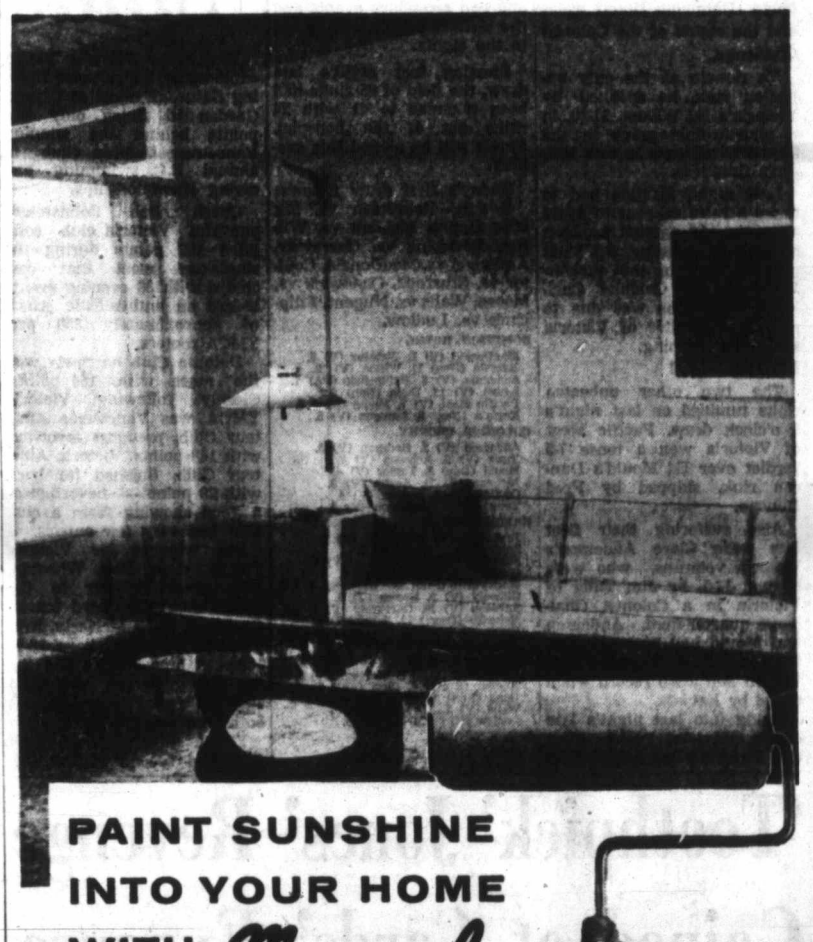

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